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The Patent Office

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1. Your reference PZ0249

2. Patent application number
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0216621.3

17 JUL 2002

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

Imaging Research Solutions Limited
Cyclotron Building
Hammersmith Campus
DuCane Road
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W12 0NN

Patents ADF number (if you know it)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

GB

4. Title of the invention

IMAGING COMPOUNDS

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom
to which all correspondence should be sent
(including the postcode)HAMMETT, Audrey, Grace, Campbell; ROLLINS, Anthony, John and
HAMMER, Catriona, MacLeod
Amersham plc
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Buckinghamshire HP7 9LL

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Country

Priority application number
(if you know it)Date of filing
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Number of earlier application

Date of filing
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Yes

- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
 - b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
 - c) any named applicant is a corporate body.
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Continuation sheets of this form

Description	11
Claim(s)	3
Abstract	
Drawing(s)	3

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Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)

Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77) 1

Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)

Any other documents (please specify)

11.

Audrey Hammett
HAMMETT, Audrey, G, C

I do request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature

Date

17 July 2002

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom HALLS, Jennie 01494 545064

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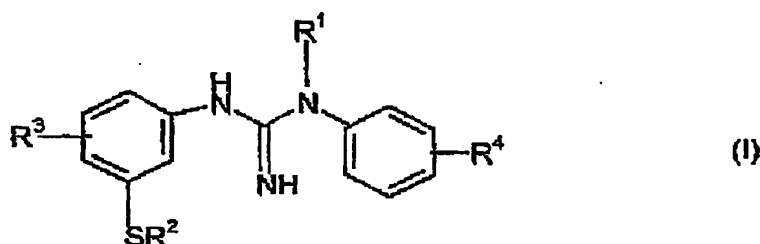
DUPLICATE

IMAGING COMPOUNDS

The present invention relates to the field of medical imaging, in particular to positron emission tomography (PET) and single-photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) and provides compounds and methods for imaging central nervous system (CNS) receptors.

The *N*-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor is one of the main subtypes of glutamatergic receptors and is widely accepted to play a pivotal role in long term depression, long term potentiation, and developmental neuronal plasticity. NMDA induced excitotoxicity that is due at least partially to overactivation or prolonged stimulation of NMDA receptors has been found in many CNS diseases such as stroke, brain or spinal chord trauma, epilepsy, Alzheimer's disease, and Huntington's disease. A number of compounds have been investigated as potential radioligands for studying the NMDA receptor ion-channel site *in vivo* using PET. However, the majority of these compounds have suffered the disadvantages of poor penetration of the blood brain barrier or high non-specific binding. Therefore, there exists a need for further radioligands for the NMDA receptor.

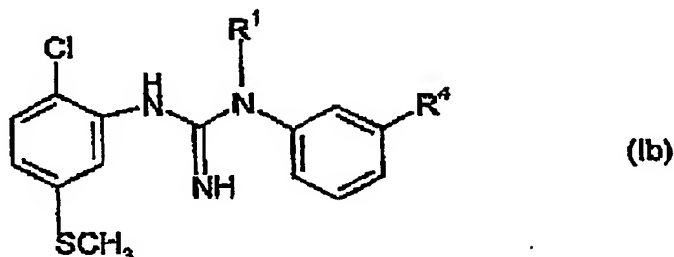
Accordingly, in one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a compound of formula (I):



or a salt or solvate thereof, wherein:

R^1 is $-^{11}\text{CH}_2\text{R}^5$ or $[^{18}\text{F}]\text{-C}_{1-4}$ fluoroalkyl wherein R^5 is hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl;

In a more preferred aspect of the invention, there is provided a compound of formula (Ib):



5 or a salt or solvate thereof, wherein:

R^4 is C_{1-4} alkylthio, preferably $-SCH_3$;

R^1 is either $-^{11}CH_3$, $-^{11}CH_2CH_3$, or $-^{11}CH_2CH_2CH_3$ (preferably $-^{11}CH_3$), or R^1 is $-CH_2^{18}F$, $-CH_2CH_2^{18}F$, or $-CH_2CH_2CH_2^{18}F$ (preferably $-CH_2^{18}F$).

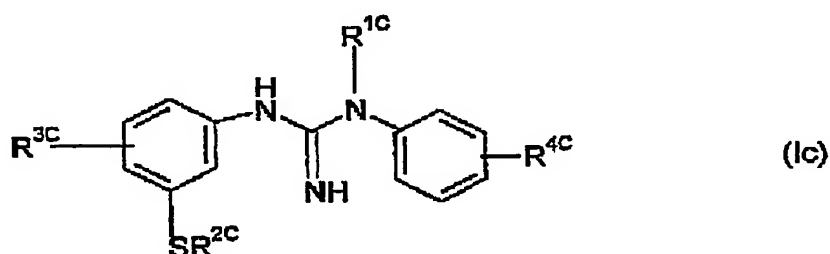
10 Most preferred compounds of formula (I) include:

(N-(2-chloro-5-(methylthio)phenyl)-N'-(3-methylthio)phenyl)-N'-[N-methyl- ^{11}C]-methylguanidine; and

(N-(2-chloro-5-(methylthio)phenyl)-N'-(3-methylthio)phenyl)-N'-[^{18}F]-fluoromethylguanidine.

15

According to a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided a compound of formula (Ic):

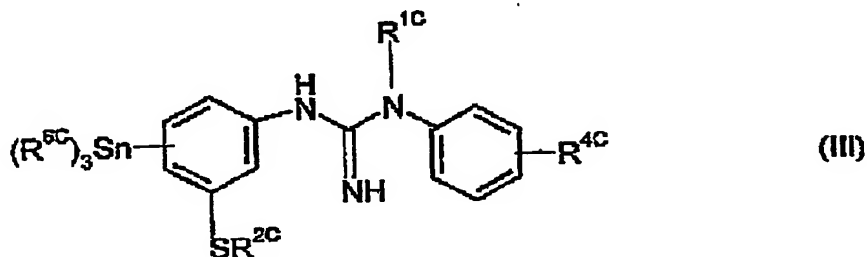


20 or a salt or solvate thereof, wherein:

R^{1c} is C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{1-4} haloalkyl (preferably C_{1-4} fluoroalkyl);

R^{2c} is hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl (preferably methyl);

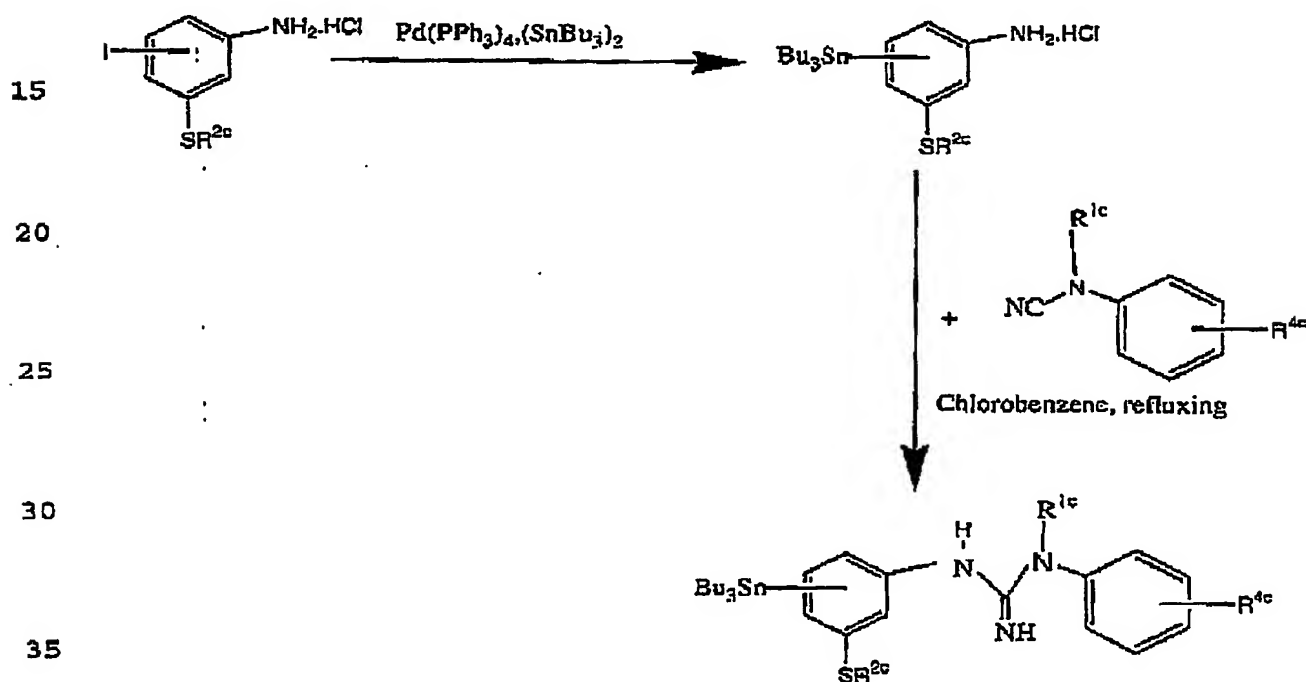
A compound of formula (Ic) or a salt or solvate thereof may be prepared from the corresponding compound of formula (III):



- 5 wherein R^{1c} , R^{2c} , and R^{4c} are as defined for the compound of (Ic) and R^{6c} is C_{1-4} alkyl preferably n-butyl, by reaction with an appropriate labelled iodide salt, suitably and alkali metal iodide such as sodium iodide in the presence of an acid such as peracetic acid.

- 10 Compounds of formula (III) may be prepared according to Scheme 1:

Scheme 1



wherein R^{1c} , R^{2c} , and R^{4c} are as defined for the compound of formula (III).

The invention will now be illustrated by way of the following Examples:

Example 1. Synthesis of (N-(2-chloro-5-(methylthio)phenyl)-N'-(3-methylthio)phenyl)-N'-[N-methyl-¹³C] - methylguanidine ("Compound 1")

5 (i) 2-chloro-5-(methylthio)aniline hydrochloride.

To a stirred solution of 2-chloro-5-(methylthio)benzoic acid (5g, 24.67 mmol) in t-butanol (20mL) was added triethylamine (5.25 mL, 37.8 mmol). After stirring briefly, diphenylphosphoryl azide (6mL, 27.60mmol) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was slowly heated to reflux for 6 hours and then cooled to room
10 temperature. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude reaction mixture was dissolved in tetrahydrofuran (12.5 mL) followed by the addition of 12.5mL trifluoroacetic acid (1:1). The reaction mixture was heated to reflux for 6 hours and the solvent was evaporated after cooling to room temperature. The reaction mixture was treated with NaOH (25%) to bring the pH
15 to 12 while cooling in an ice water bath. The product was repeatedly extracted into ethylacetate (4 X 25 mL) and the organic layer washed with water (10 mL). The combined extracts were dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford yellow oil. The product was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, gradient of hexanes/EtOAc) and the collected samples dissolved in ether and treated with
20 HCl/ether (10 mL, 1 M) to provide white crystals. The final product was a white solid (3.73g, 87% yield): mp: 180-181°C;

TLC: hexanes/EtOAc (9:1) R_f=0.51;

MS (CI) *m/e* 174 (M+1 for C₇H₈ClNS) and *m/e* 191 (M+NH₃);

¹H-NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ (ppm) 7.2-6.7 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 6.1 (br.s 2H, NH₂), 2.5 (s, 3H, S-CH₃);
25

¹³C-NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ (ppm) 138.1 (C-NH₂, C1), 129.7 (C-S-CH₃, C5, and C-H, C3), 119.8 (C-H, C4), 118.1 (C-Cl, C2), 116.6 (C-H, C6), 14.6 (S-CH₃, C7);

IR: 3481.3 cm⁻¹ (NH₂), 2600 – 3000 cm⁻¹ (C-H aromatic, C-H aliphatic stretch), 1480 – 1600 cm⁻¹ (C=C), 1250 cm⁻¹ (S-CH₃), 1116 cm⁻¹ (C-N), 832 cm⁻¹ (C-H aromatic).
30

(ii) 3-(methylthio)phenylcyanamide

A solution of cyanogen bromide (1.42g, 13.4 mmol) in anhydrous diethyl ether (8 mL) was added slowly to a stirred solution of 3-(methylthio)aniline (2.72 mL, 21.4 mmol) in anhydrous diethyl ether at 4 °C. After the addition, the reaction mixture was stirred at 24 °C for 12 hours and became a brown solution with a white precipitate. The precipitate was filtered off; the filtrate was washed with aqueous HCl (1 M, 3 x 15 mL) in ether and the organic layer extracted with brine (10 mL). Then the ether solution was dried over $MgSO_4$, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to yield a thick liquid. The crude product was further purified by column chromatography (SiO_2 , a gradient of hexanes/ CH_2Cl_2 /EtOAc) to afford 3-(methylthio)phenyl cyanamide (0.7g, 49% yield) as a white solid: m.p. 64-65°C; TLC dichloromethane/EtOAc (93:7) R_f =0.54; MS (CI) m/e 165 ($M+1$ for $C_8H_8N_2S$), 182 ($M+NH_4$), 199 ($M+NH_4+NH_3$), 216 ($M+NH_4+NH_3+NH_3$); 1H -NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ (ppm) 7.2-6.7 (m, 4H, Ar-H), 7.5 (br.s, 1H, NH), 2.45 (s, 3H, S- CH_3); ^{13}C -NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ (ppm) 140.8 (C-NH, C1), 137.9 (C-SCH₃, C3), 129.9 (C-H, C5), 121.3 (C-H, C2), 112.9 (C-H, C4), 112.1 (C-H, C6), 111.6 (CN, C7), 15.5 (S-CH₃, C8); IR: 3050-3172 cm^{-1} (C-H aromatic stretch), 2900-3000 cm^{-1} (C-H stretch, methyl C-H stretch), 2227 cm^{-1} (CN), 1480-1600 cm^{-1} (C=C), 1280-1350 cm^{-1} (S-CH₃), 700-800 cm^{-1} (C-H aromatic), 600 cm^{-1} (C-S stretch).

(iii) N-(2-chloro-5-(methylthio)phenyl)-N'-(methylthio)phenylguanidine

Aluminium chloride (0.67g, 5 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of 3-(methylthio) phenylcyanamide (prepared using methods described in Example 1 (ii)) (0.82g, 5 mmol) in chlorobenzene (8 mL) at 25°C. The solution was stirred for 5 min. followed by the addition of 2-chloro-5-(methylthio)aniline hydrochloride (prepared using methods described in Example 1 (i)) (1.25g, 6 mmol). The mixture was heated at 120-130°C for 6 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and TLC showed that the reaction was completed. The crude product was then filtered, concentrated and then taken by dichloromethane, the resulting

solution was washed by 1M aqueous HCl and followed by saline. Afterwards, the crude product was dried over MgSO_4 , filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to yield a thick liquid. The crude product was further purified by column chromatography (SiO_2 , a gradient of $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$) to afford 1.1g N-(2-chloro-5-(methylthio)phenyl)-N'-(methylthio)-phenylguanidine, yield 65%.

TLC: $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$ (9:1), $R_f=0.36$;

MS (CI) m/e 338 (M^++1 for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_3\text{S}_2\text{Cl}$).

10 (iv) [N-methyl- ^{14}C] - (N-(2-chloro-5-(methylthio)phenyl)-N'-(3-methylthio)phenyl)-N'-methylguanidine

[^{14}C] Iodomethane produced from the [^{14}C] CO_2 reaction with LiAlH_4 and HI was distilled into a reaction vial containing the 0.5mg (1.5 μmol) precursor, N-(2-chloro-5-(methylthio)phenyl)-N'-(methylthio)phenylguanidine (prepared using methods described in Example 1(iii)) in 250 μml acetonitrile and 0.6mg sodium hydride (1mg of 60% NaH dispersion in mineral oil, 25 μmol of NaH). The reaction was carried out at 65°C with stirring for 5 minutes and final mixture was directly injected on to a μ -Bondapak C-18 column (7.8x300 mm) with a mobile phase of 70%acetonitrile/0.05M ammonium hydrogen phosphate (pH=8.39) at a flow rate of 2.5ml/min and $\lambda=254\text{nm}$. The radioactive peak eluted at 12.36minutes.

20

Biological Data

Biological data are presented with reference to the following Figure 1 which shows radioactivity concentration (cpm/g tissue)/(injected cpm/g body weight) in two of the sampled brain tissues Figure 1(a) cerebellum or Figure1(b) prefrontal cortex. In Figure 1(c) the prefrontal cortex data are shown as ratios with the cerebellum data from individual rats, assuming the cerebellum to have low NMDA receptor density (Bowery et al, Br. J. Pharmacol. 93:944-954 (1988)).

25

Materials and Methods

30 Sixteen adult male Sprague-Dawley rats (body weight 250 - 320 g; mean \pm SD = 288 \pm 25 g) were used in 5 separate experiments. Each rat was injected with ~13

MBq Compound 1, at a specific activity of 103 ± 40 GBq/ μ mol, via a previously catheterised tail vein. The associated stable compound was 0.5 ± 0.2 nmol/kg. Discrete samples of arterial blood were collected from 9 of the rats via a previously catheterised tail artery.

5 Biodistribution

Tissues were sampled post-mortem using an established protocol, as described in Hirani et al, Synapse 42:164-176 (2001). The radioactivity concentration data obtained at 12 times up to 90 min after radioligand injection were normalised for both amount injected and body weight, giving:- 'uptake units' = (cpm/g
10 tissue)/(injected cpm/g body weight).

Metabolite analysis

Plasma samples were injected directly onto a solid phase extraction (SPE) column (C18), with di-ammonium hydrogen phosphate (0.1 M) mobile phase, and the retained radioactivity subsequently injected onto a reverse phase HPLC column
15 (300 x 7.8 mm i.d., μ -Bondapak C18) with a mobile phase of methanol:0.1 M ammonium formate, 70:40 v/v. The eluates were monitored for radioactivity and absorbance at 254 nm. Brain tissues were assayed using the same methodology, excepting that the samples were homogenised and de-proteinated prior to injection onto the HPLC column.

20

RESULTS

Blood and Plasma

Following the initial, rapid decrease in radioactivity concentration concomitant with the tissue distribution phase, the radioactivity level in both whole blood and
25 plasma remained at ~0.2 uptake units for the period 5 to 90 min after intravenous injection. The percentage of radioactivity associated with parent decreased rapidly; to ~50% at 10 min and reached ~5% at 90 min.

Biodistribution

Brain.

30 Full data sets for each tissue sampled are given in Table 1. Following intravenous injection, there was a high extraction of radioactivity into the brain. All tissues

showed a further, small increase in Compound 1 content within the first 5 minutes, followed by a gradual decrease. As a result of differential retention, slight heterogeneity in distribution developed over time. Highest radioactivity concentrations were measured in cortex and hippocampus with lowest values in medulla and cerebellum. The difference was maximal from 40 minutes after intravenous injection of the radioligand. In brain, Compound 1 represented approximately 95% and 90% of the radioactivity, at 20 and 70 minutes, respectively.

Figure 1 illustrates uptake values in (a) cerebellum and (b) prefrontal cortex as a function of time after injection of Compound 1. Assuming that the radioactivity in cerebellum represents free and non-specifically bound Compound 1, Fig 1(c) shows the development of 'specific signal' over the period of the experiment in cortex, with a final ratio of 'total'/'non-specific' of ~1.4.

Periphery.

The distribution of radioactivity in rat tissue as a function of time after intravenous injection of Compound 1 are presented in Table 2. The data are suitable for estimation of the Effective Dose Equivalent, for radiation dosimetry purposes.

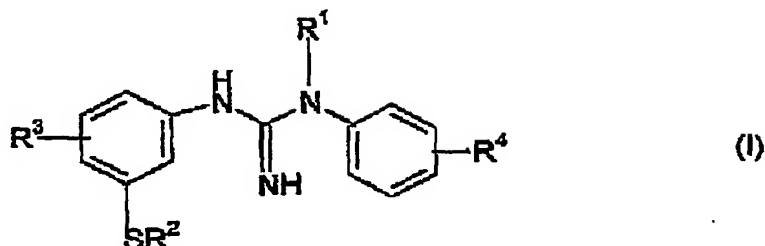
SUMMARY

Compound 1 showed rapid metabolism and clearance from the plasma with high extraction of the radiolabelled parent into rat brain. A specific signal (total/non-specific radioactivity) developed within a time commensurate with PET scanning. The signal was small but this might be expected in 'normal' brain, with a resting state of the NMDA receptor. If the specific signal represents selective binding to a site on the NMDA receptor, the signal should be increased following channel opening.

Claims

1. A compound of formula (I):

5



or a salt or solvate thereof, wherein:

R¹ is -¹¹CH₂R⁵ or [¹⁸F]-C₁₄ fluoroalkyl wherein R⁵ is hydrogen or C₁₄ alkyl;

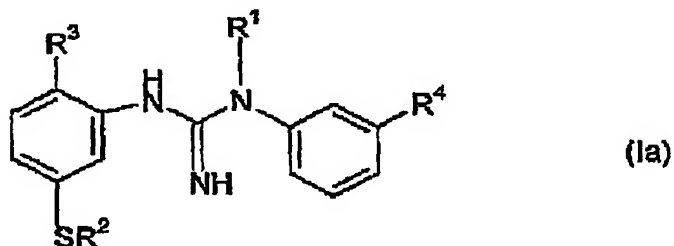
R² is hydrogen or C₁₄ alkyl;

10 R³ is halo; and

R⁴ is halo, C₁₄ alkylthio, or C₁₄ alkyl.

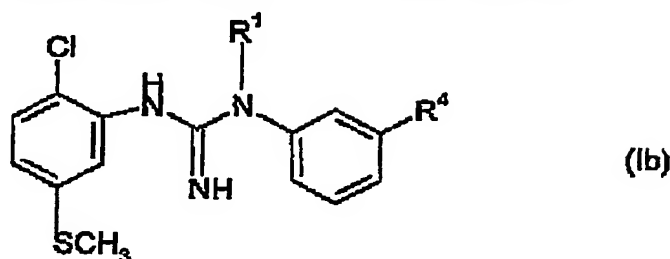
2. A compound according to claim 1 of formula (Ia) :

15



or a salt or solvate thereof, wherein R¹, R², R³, and R⁴ are as defined in claim 1.

3. A compound according to claim 1 or 2 of formula (lb):

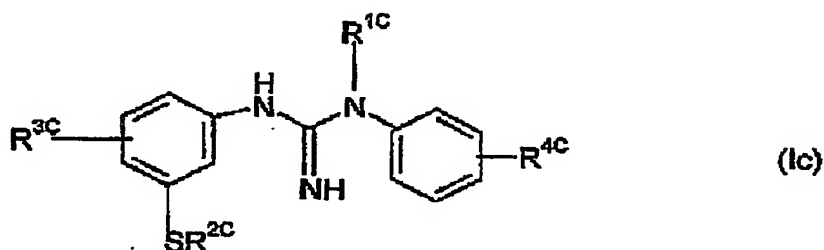


or a salt or solvate thereof, wherein:

R^4 is C_{1-4} alkylthio;

- 5 R^1 is either $-^{11}CH_3$, $-^{11}CH_2CH_3$, or $-^{11}CH_2CH_2CH_3$ or R^1 is $-CH_2^{18}F$, $-CH_2CH_2^{18}F$, or $-CH_2CH_2CH_2^{18}F$.

4. A compound of formula (lc):



10

or a salt or solvate thereof, wherein:

R^{1c} is C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{1-4} haloalkyl;

R^{2c} is hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^{3c} is radioiodine (suitably ^{123}I , ^{124}I , ^{125}I , or ^{131}I); and

- 15 R^{4c} is halo, C_{1-4} alkylthio, or C_{1-4} alkyl.

5. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3 selected from:

(N-(2-chloro-5-(methylthio)phenyl)-N'-(3-methylthio)phenyl)-N'-[N-methyl- ^{11}C]-

- 20 methylguanidine; and

(N-(2-chloro-5-(methylthio)phenyl)-N'-(3-methylthio)phenyl)-N'-[^{18}F]-
fluoromethylguanidine;

or a salt or solvate thereof.

6. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 for use in an *in vivo* diagnostic or imaging method such as PET.

5

7. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 in the manufacture of a radiopharmaceutical for the *in vivo* diagnosis or imaging of an NMDA-mediated disease.

10 8. A method for the *in vivo* diagnosis or imaging of NMDA-mediated disease in a subject, preferably a human, comprising administration of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5.

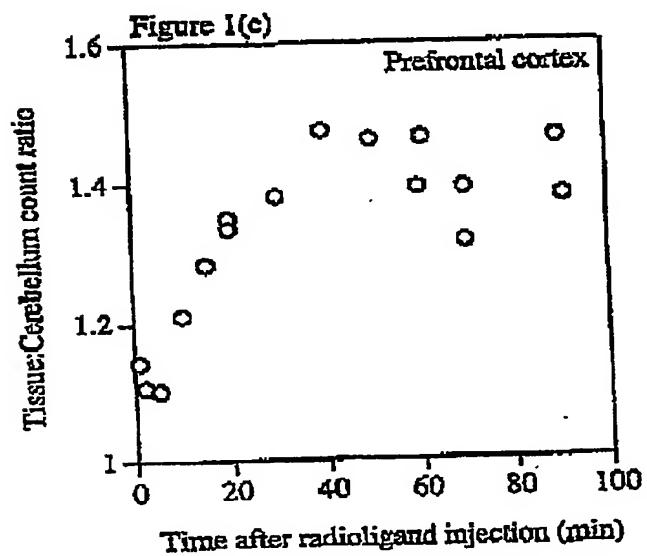
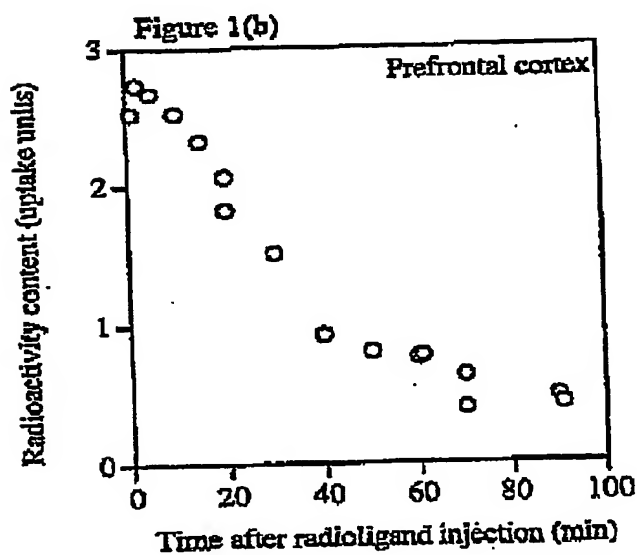
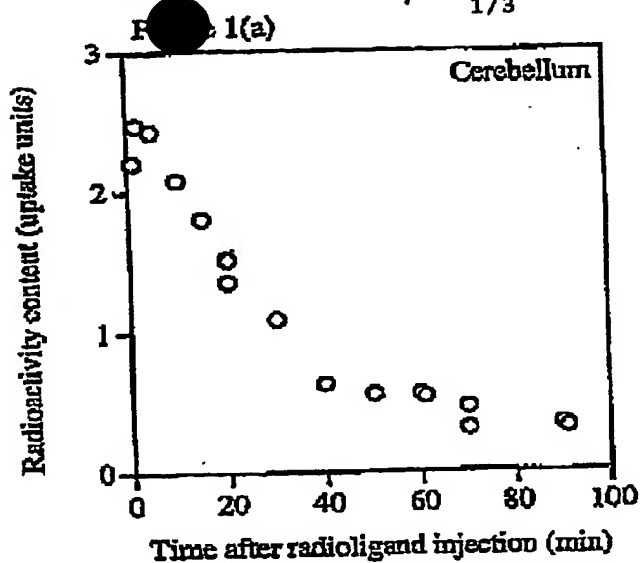


Table 1 Distribution of radioactivity in rat brain tissue as a function of time (minutes) after intravenous injection of Compound 1
 Data are from 1 rat or 2 rats (*) per time point and are expressed in:-
 Uptake Units = (cpm/g wet weight tissue)/(injected cpm/g body weight).

Tissue	1	2	5	10	15	20	30	40	50	60	70	90 min
Olfactory bulbs	2.34	2.50	2.18	1.91	1.72	1.46	1.10	0.64	0.58	0.55*	0.31	0.28*
Olfactory tubercles	2.49	2.58	2.42	2.14	1.92	1.73	1.24	0.72	0.65	0.65*	0.36	0.38*
Entorhinal cortex	1.92	2.13	2.16	2.04	1.93	1.80	1.31	0.85	0.75	0.73*	0.41	0.38*
Hypothalamus		2.31	2.29	2.28	2.13	1.85	1.67	1.22	0.76	0.61	0.65*	0.33 0.35*
Thalamus	2.59	2.41	2.59	2.39	2.21	2.01	1.43	0.92	0.85	0.74*	0.40	0.42*
Prefrontal cortex	2.52	2.73	2.67	2.52	2.32	1.94*	1.51	0.93	0.80	0.77*	0.52*	0.45*
Striata	2.13	2.33	2.35	2.17	1.92	1.65*	1.32	0.84	0.69	0.67*	0.46*	0.41*
Somatosensory cortex		2.22	2.58	2.69	2.49	2.24	2.03	1.37	0.88	0.71	0.68*	0.38 0.43*
Hippocampus		1.61	1.73	2.00	1.81	1.74	1.60	1.32	0.86	0.73	0.76*	0.54* 0.46*
Visual cortex		2.71	3.05	2.80	2.28	2.07	1.55	0.89	0.72	0.73*	0.38	0.44*
Inferior colliculi	3.42	3.65	3.23	2.69	2.22	1.97	1.16	0.64	0.56	0.54*	0.39	0.36
Superior colliculi	2.42	2.64	2.59	2.35	2.01	1.84	1.19	0.65	0.57	0.54*	0.28	0.23
Medulla with Pons	2.18	2.35	2.34	2.26	1.92	1.68	1.26	0.80	0.70	0.67*	0.39	0.39*
Cerebellum	2.21	2.47	2.43	2.08	1.81	1.45*	0.55	0.62	0.55	0.54*	0.38*	0.32*

Table 2 Distribution of radioactivity in rat tissue as a function of time (minutes) after intravenous injection of Compound 1
 Tissue data are from 1 rat or 2 rats(*) per time point. Blood data are from a composite curve derived from 9 of the rats. Data are expressed in Uptake Units = (cpm/g wet weight tissue)/(injected cpm/g body weight).

Tissue	1	2	5	10	15	20	30	40	50	60	70	90 min
Whole blood	0.59	0.42	0.26	0.21	0.19	0.18	0.19	0.16	0.16	0.17	0.18	0.18
Plasma		0.51	0.37	0.24	0.19	0.17	0.17	0.18	0.16	0.17	0.18	0.21
Skeletal muscle	1.07	1.14	1.32	1.05	1.07	0.96*	0.68	0.61	0.61	0.49*	0.44*	0.35*
Skin	0.47	0.54	0.61	0.70	0.51	0.68*	0.75	0.39	0.52	0.46*	0.47*	0.40*
Urine	-	-	11.7	10.9	22.0	10.7*	37.5	27.5	84.5	24.4*	16.9*	46.4*
Fat	0.15	0.18	0.23	0.50	0.75	0.40*	0.71	0.45	0.49	0.79*	0.55*	0.51*
Testis	0.50	0.51	0.56	0.66	0.66	0.73*	0.76	0.74	0.69	0.89*	0.74*	0.79*
Small intestine		3.38	3.87	3.17	2.49	2.79	2.16*	2.30	1.09	1.19	1.29*	1.34*
Sm. intestine content		4.96	5.62	6.84	5.31	9.63	6.08*	7.14	3.68	4.03	6.08*	5.41*
Large intestine		2.71	3.11	2.73	1.92	1.65	1.27*	1.11	0.88	0.76	1.03*	0.76*
Lge. intestine content		0.11	0.21	0.13	0.17	0.03	0.28*	0.36	0.23	0.35	0.44*	0.57*
Spleen		3.04	2.65	3.85	4.31	4.46	3.26*	4.75	2.83	2.95	2.98*	2.07*
Liver	2.48	1.66	2.95	4.38	6.87	6.47*	7.84	5.76	5.01	5.73*	6.02*	3.85*
Kidney		12.5	10.8	8.70	5.72	4.78	3.19*	2.85	1.79	1.68	1.87*	1.88*
Stomach	1.60	1.49	1.26	0.82	2.07	0.67*	1.07	0.45	0.32	0.66*	0.98	0.34*
Lung	56.4	44.5	38.7	35.3	10.7	14.0*	7.48	3.99	5.30	4.10*	4.62*	2.62*
Heart (ventricle)	10.4	8.20	4.27	2.20	1.63	1.10*	0.99	0.63	0.50	0.59*	0.52*	0.40*

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